

Lacson calls in sick

By Norman Bordadora

GENERAL SANTOS City—Taking a break from his tough campaign schedule, presidential candidate Panfilo Lacson secluded himself at home on his doctor's advice yesterday, missing a rally scheduled by his supporters here.

Lacson told reporters who called him at his Parañaque City house that persistent coughing and head colds had bothered him in the last few days, but it was "nothing serious."

"I'm not about to leave for the US," he added, in reference to Alyansa ng Pag-asa standard-bearer Raul Roco who had to seek treatment abroad after he had complained of lower back pains.

"If I had gone ahead, I would have missed four to five days of the campaign. I consulted my doctor and he told me to take the day off," he said, adding that he had already taken antibiotics and would soon be back on the campaign trail.

The General Santos City campaign schedule would push through on Sunday, Lacson said.

Lacson's failure to make the Mindanao trip yesterday gave rise to reports that he was about to meet with rival opposition standard-bearer Fernando Poe Jr. in Metro Manila after their one-on-one on Monday was cancelled due to conflicting schedules.

"I already said that I would no longer cancel sorties to accommodate their (Poe's camp) requests to meet," Lacson said. "The people of General Santos City and I would meet on Sunday. We just changed the dates of our schedule. We didn't cancel; we just put it off for another day," he added.

Lacson is scheduled to go through towns and cities of central and southern Mindanao until the weekend. He is expected to be back in Metro Manila on Monday for another crack at unification talks with rival opposition presidential bet actor Fernando Poe Jr.

Viets ignore criticisms on Spratlys tours

HANOI—Vietnam brushed aside mounting criticism on its maiden tourist trip to the disputed Spratly islands from rival claimants, saying its citizens were engaged in a harmless activity on its own territory.

China, Taiwan and the Philippines have questioned Hanoi's decision to permit the eight-day tour, comprising nearly 100 people believed to be civilians on a navy ship that began on Monday.

"Vietnam has sovereignty on the Spratly and Paracel islands," Deputy Foreign Minister Le Van Bang told an American Chamber of Commerce lunch on Tuesday. "That is our position, this is our land."

The Spratlys—a cluster of islets, rocks and reefs in an area believed rich in oil and natural gas—are claimed in whole or in part by China, Taiwan and the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam. The Chinese and Vietnamese navies clashed in the Spratlys in the late 1980s.

The 10 members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean) which includes Vietnam and the Philippines, had agreed with non-Asean member China in 2002 to consult over the Spratlys in a move to avoid upsetting the status quo.

Asked if Vietnam was acting in line with that declaration of conduct, Bang said: "We are acting in accordance with our law and this is a civilian activity, for tourists to come to visit our land."

China, which along with Vietnam claims all of the Spratlys, has registered the stiffest protest, summoning Vietnam's envoy in Beijing to express its concerns.

Taiwan too added its voice, reiterating its claim over the atolls and islets late on Monday. It clashed with Vietnam last month over a bird-watching stand it had erected on a reef.

Bang took a jab at actions by other claimants, noting others have tried to build structures, ban fishing and military exercises on or near the islands. "That is more dangerous than the visit of some civilians," he said.

Reuters

2 killed in election violence in Albay

Philippines

In a pollzone he did not intend, why are they suddenly full-on and why are they becoming violent?" Gonzalez said.

The deaths of Quilican and the driver have brought to 11 the number of people killed since the start of the election period on Oct. 10, police statistics showed. The campaign for local elections began on March 22 while that for congressional elections on April 30.

Chief Insp. Joel Gollano, spokesman of the Philippine National Police, said a total of 117 were reported in election-related violence.

11 politicians killed

The number of casualties has exceeded the number of candidates in the 2001 elections. The previous national elections registered 62 cases of political violence that left 34 people killed and 14 others injured. Twenty politicians were killed while nine were injured.

This year's deaths include 11 politicians like General Mariano married candidate Jovy Magpaya, the son-in-law of late 1st Vice President Arroyo, who was killed on Feb. 11.

At least six politicians were among the arrested, including Magpaya's son-in-law Francisco Magpaya, who survived a bomb blast that killed at least 12 people and injured more than 30 others killed during the period were 20 soldiers, 18 policemen, and 15 politicians. They died in encounters with newly hired troops' army units.

With 34th incidents involving the common law parties, Gollano said the 11th involved the "most active" phase in the holding of peaceful elections.

Hot spots

The existing violence has prompted the PNP to concentrate the activities of its units also in the hot spots of election "hot spots." They are San Carlos City in Pangasinan, Marikina and Marikina in Metro Manila, Marikina in Marikina, Cebu in Marikina, and Marikina in Marikina.

There are 24 "election zones of immediate concern" as election hot spots on the PNP list, Gollano said.

But has the most number of job-related violence with 18 followed by Marikina, Marikina with seven, and Marikina Marikina with

10, Gollano said.

The Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, known to be a hot spot for election violence, has had only three incidents so far. He said the death of the campaign leader will affect his candidacy for the 2004 election.

He said he would visit work hard to ensure that the election will be held in a peaceful manner.

Breeder

Gollano said that the results of the campaign leader was not a problem, he denied that he was involved in the death of the candidate for the 2004 election.

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FPJ warns Ping time fast running out

By Benito O. Diño

Lawson said he had a dinner for which he had to accommodate his own-run meeting with Pinoy.

"If he really wanted to meet on Monday he could have scheduled his afternoon schedule as we could talk," the senator said.

US Embassy

The senator said he was with 22 change officers, Joseph Mananila and other US military officials on Monday morning to discuss the political situation and the military's political situation.

"They just asked about the political situation and the platform of government. They are not interested," he said.

Lawson said he and Pinoy had before for their meeting was "if he should be in our area" to hold the meeting.

The senator, however, said there was still a possibility that the opposition could easily lose May 10 but he was available soon later for a meeting with Pinoy.

Pinoy said he and Lawson were doing their schedule so they could meet soon, but he said he and Lawson had not agreed on a date.

Pinoy declined to comment on Lawson's statement on Monday that it was Lawson who was the biggest stumbling block to the anti-fake.

Lawson denied that. He said that Lawson, at the suggestion of the US military, was pushing Lawson to go on with his presidential bid by continuing to lead his campaign.

"I don't know anything about it," Pinoy said.

Pushback

Lawson said he could not see the logic behind the claim of his former boss, Imelda, that he was a stumbling block to the anti-fake opposition.

He brushed off "pushback" Lawson's allegation that he received money from Pinoy in exchange for his decision not to withdraw from the presidential race.

"I don't understand (Lawson's) statement that I'm a stumbling block to the opposition's endorsement. I'd no longer comment. That is his opinion," said Lawson, who served as the Philippine National Police chief under the Estrada administration.

Pinoy is insisting that Lawson gave up to Pinoy.

The disputed incident is being Lawson in the governor he made to Estrada last year that he would lose out of the presidential race should he fail to get a big number of support in the May 10 run 2004 election.

"Can he give up for his 40," he said of Lawson, who is running for Pinoy, but said he and the opposition could be used to lead the push. A Pinoy web server has found that Lawson is now about 100 by a referendum.

In an interview in Camp Cuyayan, Tuguegarao, where he is detained, Lawson on Friday said, "I would like to see, King of the Philippines, to see what he is doing."

He said he remained optimistic that the law would serve to ensure the opposition's victory.

"If they don't really, I think I'll have an edge over Pinoy," he said, adding that Pinoy's victory was needed to be a law-Lawson situation.

The entry by Lawson of the three political parties comprising the EDR namely, Pinoy's Power ng Masyadong Diptan, the Liberal Democratic Philippines of Sen. Eduardo Arroyo, and the PDP-Laban led by Mayor Miguel Arroyo.

Lawson, who is in detention for plunder and graft charges, said he was Pinoy winning the election. "The presidency is doing," he said.

But Lawson said it would take more than popularity to run the country which he believed the law should withdraw from the race, Lawson said. "I have always hoped that he would slide down to be my vice president."

He said he was not still happy for the anti-fake opposition.

"The hope is that FPJ realize that it takes a very close popularity to handle the opposition or lack of the anti-fake situation," Lawson said from his Panatag prison, where he took a one-day rest.

Indifference

Mr. Macapagal yesterday professed indifference to efforts by her rivals to strip a son of her father's political status that she would watch her land over Pinoy, her principal rival.

"I don't analyze that," she said when asked to a 4000 men who said that a strike opposition to strip would lead to a strike.

"What I can say is that I look forward to this case resulting in highlighting the difference between the two candidates. The administration candidate is a criminal, doesn't get professional campaign and the opposition is a questioning organization, misleading, lies, corrupt and dishonest," she said.

On Monday Mr. Macapagal said she was looking forward to the activities of the Pinoy and Lawson camps so that it would lead the president to a two-candidate.

Presidential Chair of Anti-Fakepinoy Diptan said the current Secretary Mr. Macapagal and Pinoy had helped him the President's office.

Pinoy said many quarters expected the President to withdraw her bid in pre-election surveys over the by 10 percentage points. "The support (for her) is going to go up to 40 to 50 percent," Diño said.

Diño said that in 1994, when Lawson ran for president, he never 10 days before the election 10 days from 10 percent to 40 percent.

He said Mr. Macapagal's things made it even 1000 27 percent in January and 10 percent in February to 24 percent in the last Pinoy Area survey last month.

Mr. Macapagal said her son was in the "hot" candidate, because she has a better machinery and in the "hot" candidate, Diño said. With a report from Anti-Fakepinoy.

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Australia launches \$2.7-M security

By Christian V. Eguerra

THE COUNTRY that habitually issued travel advisories against the Philippines now wants to help local authorities in the fight against terrorism.

Australia yesterday launched a \$2.7-million security package to further boost the country's operations against terrorist groups like the Abu Sayyaf and Omna bin Laden's regional affiliate Jemaah Islamiyah.

The program is part of the three-year, \$3.7-million package Australian Prime Minister John Howard granted to the Macapagal administration during his visit here last year on July 14, the day Jemaah Islamiyah shot down a Philippine Airlines plane in the Sulu Sea.

The grant came amid the barrage of travel advisories Australia has been issuing against the Philippines largely because of the threat of terrorism.

Six travel warnings had been issued beginning 2002. The latest came in late February after an Abu Sayyaf man allegedly triggered the explosion in Superferry 14, that left 111 passengers missing.

Now Australia wants to help the Philippines "build its counterterrorism capacity ... to combat terrorism both nationally and within the Asia-Pacific region," according to Australian Ambassador Ruth Pearce.

Intel sharing

Funded by Australian Federal Police and the Australian Agency for International Development, the security package is designed to build the capacity of Philippine law enforcement agencies in "intelligence sharing, bomb investigation techniques, forensic capacity and other counterterrorism issues at both strategic and operational levels," said AFP Commissioner Mick Keohy in a statement.

The project was signed by Frank Pendergast of the Australian police and Deputy Director General Rensaldo Velasco, executive director of the Philippine Center for Transnational Crime.

Velasco said the database will be made

available to other foreign law enforcement agencies, including the US and British police.

It will enable Philippine police to collect and analyze intelligence "in real time" and share it among domestic and regional security agencies, said Pendergast.

Australia is also implementing a similar security program for Indonesia, the country

hardest hit by terrorism following the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States. The attack on the Bali island resort killed 202 people, 81 of them Australians.

Australia was assisting Southeast Asia, Jemaah Islamiyah main area of operation, consistently to avoid a repeat of the Bali attacks. With Robert Naville (retiree), AN AFP and Reuters

Bayan Muna endorses 9 Senate bets

By Volt Contreras

THE LEFT-LEADING Bayan Muna party last yesterday endorsed nine senatorial candidates who had pledged it would "actively defend" the group from human rights from ultra-rightists once elected.

The list includes the Kondeyca ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino's Sen. Aquilino Pimentel, Rep. Carlos Budha of the Lupon Demokratiko ng Pilipino-Lacson wing, and lawyers Frank Chavez and Perfecto Yano Jr. from the Alyansa ng Pag-Ambag.

Bayan Muna picked four bets from President Macapagal-Arroyo's K4 lineup: former Trade Secretary Mar Roxas, retired-politician Lito Lapid and Ramon Revilla Jr., and lawyer Pia Cayetano, daughter of the late Sen. Rene Cayetano.

Independent candidate Heleno Alvarado also made it to the group's selection.

"We thank them for vowing to actively defend Bayan Muna's mandate to serve the people against the harassment of ultra-rightist groups," Bayan Muna Rep. Sen. Oscar Lopez said.

National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales had tagged Bayan Muna as a front and financier of the communist New People's Army, and had called for its disqualification from the party-list race together with five other allied organizations. Bayan Muna, in turn, had accused the military and police of being behind the murder or abduction of its leaders, especially those in the provinces.

Gonzales explained the nine were chosen for their "individual" credentials and track

records rather than for their respective parties that had "no clear platform." The endorsement was also a recognition of the key roles some of them played in the two film revolutions, and for their "openness" to the reforms being pushed by Bayan Muna, he added.

For example, he said, Pimentel was chosen "for joining us in raising issues against the Macapagal administration," despite his affiliation with the camp of presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr., a close friend of deposed President Estrada. Chavez made the list for his pursuit of the celebrated cocaine case against the Marcos regime, and Yano and Alvarado for their roles in Edsa II.


 McGraw-Hill
 Higher Education

Deputy, it's no longer Communist. Kuper handles the angry expression, and talks to Congress, and shows things about. To Calhoun, it May's for the... (The...)



Dr. Helen Gershkoff

NATIONAL Capitol Region Police Officer Detective Patrick DeLoe, secondary incident investigator on the scene, says that the operators of the Capital Police Center lost Monday's incriminating Roadrunner, saying the truck was just a woman's driver away from a police community member of the woman.

[illegible]

"There are obvious lapses in operational procedures committed by the nation's personnel. We cannot allow our cops to stand idly by while citizens feel impotent in the face of responsibility," he says.

He added that a new measure of youth engagement is needed that actively encourages a robust, vibrant, willing, vibrant, and is in the best possible way.

Written only as a response to those and their property when police officers fail to deliver on this commitment, *Account* is a novel. The child

The IACMOC report warned that should the gravity that that members of the organization

you had been crying in doing
this stuff. They—starting
Florida... will be surprised.

The incident is tied to a small violation for an unmarked taxi was said to have been one of the officers.

On Monday, five named suspects, including a woman, robbed the Safeway Bank on E. Rockway Avenue, Natick, 22 minutes.

The company cleaned the severely polluted and un-manned the house.

The editors ordered local doctors and employees to be kept silent on the ground as they surrounded the victims' families and relatives for cash. After getting the cash, they flipped a Cuban-owned postage stamp and took

Pope urges Filipinos to vote for honest officials

From page A1

will lead to a stronger nation, truly based on equity and justice for all," he said.

The Supreme Pontiff said he believed the Philippines would play a big role in the evangelization of the region. He has seen for himself the Filipinos' desire to fulfill their role as the "light" of Asia during the World Youth Day in Manila in 1995, when he celebrated the biggest Mass on record. This was his second time to visit the Philippines in his 25 years as pope. The first was in 1981 for the canonization of the first Filipino saint, Lorenzo Ruiz.

The head of the Vatican state and the Roman Catholic Church said that he considered the World Youth Day in Manila "a moment of particular joy in (his) ministry to the universal Church."

"Being a country which has kept the Christian faith strong even when faced with extreme obstacles offers you the honorable task not only of preserving the values of this heritage but also of helping spread the ideals of the Christian culture to the whole world," the Pope said.

He, however, lamented that the Philippines, along with many Asian nations, continue to suffer from "extreme poverty," which has driven many young people to commit crimes for material gain or join radical movements that promise social change through violent means.

This predicament, he warned, could tempt governments to adopt "short-sighted solutions" that do not truly benefit the people. He urged the Philippines not only to assist the poor but to involve them in finding lasting solutions to poverty.

The Pope also expressed concern over the seemingly endless spate of violence that has taken a "devastating toll" on the country, saying this has affected many innocent lives.

"I again appeal to all parties to end the terrorism which continues to cause so much suffering to the civilian population and to embrace the path of dialogue," he said.

The Pope asked Vera to convey to President Macapagal-Arroyo, a devout Catholic, that he is praying for the Philippines.

Vera, a businesswoman and lay leader, was sworn in as Philippine Ambassador to the Holy See on March 26. Endorsed by retired Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin, she replaced Ambassador Francisco Alba, who retired on Nov. 23.

In 1994 and 1998, she was named by the Pope Dame of the prestigious Pontifical Orders of St. Sylvester and of St. Gregory.

Before her appointment, Vera worked for the United Nations Development Fund for Women and several religious organizations, including Caritas Manila, Council of Laity of Manila, Children Rosary Movement, Philippine Foundation for Rehabilitation of the Disabled and the Paraclete Foundation.

She was Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP) director and secretary in 1977-1978 and 1979-1980.

An accounting graduate from the University of Sto. Tomas, she was president and board chair of the FBS Radio Network Inc. and of Lever Properties Corp.

Vera was also involved as finance committee member and organizer in various projects of the Catholic Church such as the 4th World Meeting of Families in Manila in January 2003, the 1995 papal visit, the 5th National Eucharistic Congress in 1997; Festival of Conference on God the Father in 1999, the Marian Congress on the Holy Trinity in 2000, and the Jammin' Jubilee Concert of the Archdiocese of Manila in 1997.

Born in Guagua, Pampanga, she is married to Luis Vera. They have four children.



THE NEW Philippine Ambassador to the Holy See Leonida Vera, sitting at left, and members of her delegation pose with Pope John Paul II after presenting her credentials at the Vatican on Monday.

Pitel creditors seek 2-week extension of Smart deadline

By Clark S. Raine

MANILA, Philippines—Bank and Trust Co. and Land Bank of the Philippines, creditors of Philippine Telephone Corp. (PhilTel), filed a petition in court for a two-week extension of the deadline for the Smart group to pay its debts.

Smart group, PhilTel creditors only up to April 20 is expected to be at the court. The Smart group, however, said a week of two weeks to study the offer, since the proposed will involve loans to banks.

Smart's creditors were dollar loans at a discount, estimated at a 30-year debt of Smart, at a way with average guaranteed debt loans held by Smart.

A successful debt conversion will allow Smart to acquire Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.'s 45-percent stake in PhilTel. Smart wanted to raise the debt using by May 1.

Agencia supply Smartest Corp., and a credit, was included to accept Smart's offer to convert PhilTel's outstanding obligations into Smart's 30-year debt starting in 2014 with a fixed interest of 3.25 percent per year.

Smart said that the company's management had, on condition, by agreeing to PhilTel's debt, Smart would not PhilTel's debt.

RP posted narrow trade surplus in Feb.

THE PHILIPPINES posted a narrow trade surplus in February, leading hopes that the country is putting a sluggish performance behind it as global demand picks up.

The government reported that the country had registered a trade surplus of \$5 million in February, compared with a deficit of \$28 million a year earlier.

Exports rose 5.1 percent to \$12.29 billion in the year through February, down from the 4 percent the year to January. This, however, still suggests that the economy was slowing to more growth in the export to domestic.

February exports were 7.5 percent higher than a year earlier at \$1,990 billion, the government reported earlier this month.

Analysis said political uncertainty ahead of the May 10 national election may gradually limit the country's ability to take advantage of rising global demand for electronics and food oil will compete from China.

"That may continue to hamper more exports," said Jang Jang Wook, regional economist with DB Bank near Seoul in Singapore.

When that, we are hopeful that as long as underlying demand on the left side remains firm, we will see an improvement in terms of exports of capital goods together with an improvement in raw material and intermediate goods," Jang noted that February's 7.5 percent rise in capital goods exports had been the slowest in three months, possibly a result of weaker demand in the economy.

But imports of electronics parts were 17

percent higher than a year earlier at \$1,495 billion and accounted for half of rising goods and services.

"The February exports figure is indicating that stronger growth in previous months was built up into inventories for the next year," said M Capital economist analyst, Jang Wook.

"That the 6 percent year-on-year growth in all goods exports," Jang noted up in February after a weak start in the first month of the year as demand for electronics slumped in line with the global economic recovery.

The local electronics industry remains import-dependent from finished goods for export, as a rise in imports is often seen as a herald of higher made figures.

Domestic demand for two-thirds of the country's export earnings.

The Philippines is still falling short of its neighbors in terms of export performance. The 7.5 percent rise in the year to February compared with gains of 16.7 percent in Malaysia and 14.7 percent in Taiwan.

"With China continuing to be the dominant force in the investment, particularly for electronics, that has been at the expense of the Philippines," said Jang.

Ecozone exports rose 25% to \$2.35B in Jan.

By Rained N. Domingo

THE ECOZONE's economic zones reported a 25 percent growth in exports last January to \$2.35 billion, from \$1.88 billion in the same month last year.

At the same time, the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) said the number of jobs created by the economic zone up 14 percent to 107,000 from 93,000.

PEZA data showed that the last quarter's economic zone's total of \$2.25 billion in exports (exports last January, an improvement of 14 percent from \$1.97 billion last year).

In January, Region City Economic Zone reported \$226.2 million worth of goods exports. Cebu Economic Zone, \$142.7 million; Mactan Economic Zone, \$114.1 million; and Special Economic Zone, \$86.4 million.

The special economic zones shipped out a total of \$1.45 billion worth of products, an increase of 16 percent from \$1.4 billion in January 2009.

Up the list, exports are Laguna Technopark Inc., \$506.4 million; Gateway Business Park, \$273.2 million; Andar Technology Inc., \$130 million; and Amkor Technology Inc., \$120 million.

And Light & Science Inc. \$1.94 billion.

The biggest increase reported by Laguna Technopark, a 30 percent jump in exports to \$200 million, up from \$150 million in January last year.

But in the first quarter, the economic zone's exports in the first quarter fell from \$1.5 billion to \$1.2 billion in the same period last year.

PEZA director general, Lito S. de Lina, said that the economic zone's exports in the first quarter had not been as strong as in the same period last year.

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BUSINESS

COJUANCO PREDICTION

SMC to be among Asia's best by '07

By Elizabeth L. Sandman

Showing it has enough muscle to carry out its expansion plans, BMC reported a 30 percent increase in full-year operating earnings to FL34 million, primarily due to the 20 percent increase in net

Chicago-based IMC will start a million-dollar project in Asia Pacific by the second half of next year which will focus on its foothold in the region.

EMC already identified some countries as part of its regional initiatives in the Pacific.

These are Indonesia, Vietnam, China, Thailand, Malaysia, Taiwan and Hong Kong, initially receiving \$100 million for each season.

EMC recently signed an agreement to acquire assets of that last sector, the Internet Service

The brewery has a capacity of 100,000 bottles per day for 4000 bottles which include a brewery on a 21.75-hectare site at the Pathum Thani province in Central Thailand, some 30 kilometers north of Bangkok.

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has awarded 11 contracts of various kind available for future construction.

The PCMI is represented by Marcelo Simões, Paulo Sérgio de, Edgardo de Silva Jato, Lucio and Bruno Jato.

Last November, SMC also purchased a leading fresh produce in Vietnam.

It also recently acquired a Thai new format for its non-adolescent boys against Blurred / Gungling. Therefore it standard China.

The company's total assets, more than will amount to \$45-million while the franchise will allow the company to increase its

DISCLOSURES

LIBERTY Floor Mills Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 26, 2 p.m. at the Liberty Bldg., 225 N. Wacker Ave., White City. Record date is April 26.

STV,ANE Development Corp. will host its annual shareholders' meeting on June 1, 4 p.m. at the 2400 Inland Centerway N., Suite 2, 2400 N. Main Street, Suite 200, Boise, Idaho 83725.

WORME Milling Company Inc. disclosed that representatives from C.I. Marshall & Co. will propose to acquire the assets of the company in connection with the company's annual shareholders' meeting on April 30.

U.S.O.R.-Directors of Japanese Consolidated Mining Co. were: Hajime S. Tani, Shigeo U. Yagi, Eiichi K. Nishida, Chikao I. Wada, Masao Ichino, Eiichi Nakai, Jiro C. Nagata and Goroemon O. Tani. Independent directors are John D. Fairfield and William C. Tesoro.

BILL Gey, co-founder of sexual-orientation meetings June 3, 7 p.m.
Beverly Hills May 8. Mon. Party 7 p.m. It was opened further early-age
start of the board, and members along company's corporate and executive
community. Community Film Network. P.O. Box 9000

2500118

April 20, 2006 Results	Deal	Loan Agreement	Order Agreement	Price Agreement
United States	United	\$ 2,028,000,000	1,000,000	252,769,000
Canada	Canada	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
United Kingdom	United	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Germany	Germany	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
France	France	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Italy	Italy	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Spain	Spain	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Sweden	Sweden	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Switzerland	Switzerland	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Belgium	Belgium	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Portugal	Portugal	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Poland	Poland	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Czech Republic	Czech Republic	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Slovakia	Slovakia	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Hungary	Hungary	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Romania	Romania	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Bulgaria	Bulgaria	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Greece	Greece	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Turkey	Turkey	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Israel	Israel	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
India	India	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
China	China	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Japan	Japan	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
South Korea	South Korea	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Australia	Australia	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
New Zealand	New Zealand	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
South Africa	South Africa	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Argentina	Argentina	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Colombia	Colombia	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Venezuela	Venezuela	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Peru	Peru	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Ecuador	Ecuador	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Guatemala	Guatemala	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Honduras	Honduras	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Nicaragua	Nicaragua	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Panama	Panama	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Costa Rica	Costa Rica	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Dominican Republic	Dominican Republic	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Jamaica	Jamaica	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Trinidad and Tobago	Trinidad and Tobago	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Barbados	Barbados	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Antigua and Barbuda	Antigua and Barbuda	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Belize	Belize	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Suriname	Suriname	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Guinea-Bissau	Guinea-Bissau	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Sierra Leone	Sierra Leone	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Liberia	Liberia	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Ivory Coast	Ivory Coast	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Ghana	Ghana	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Senegal	Senegal	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Gambia	Gambia	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Sierra Leone	Sierra Leone	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Liberia	Liberia	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Ivory Coast	Ivory Coast	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Ghana	Ghana	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Senegal	Senegal	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
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Sierra Leone	Sierra Leone	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Liberia	Liberia	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Ivory Coast	Ivory Coast	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Ghana	Ghana	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Senegal	Senegal	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Gambia	Gambia	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Sierra Leone	Sierra Leone	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Liberia	Liberia	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000



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U.S. GRAND JURY PROBE

Local telecoms to take shelter in Philippine laws

By Christine S. Buzbee

PHILIPPINE telecommunication companies center fire for alleged price-fixing and anti-competitive behavior would receive local laws to defend themselves from U.S. grand jury subpoenas.

Bacon Telecommunications Inc., of the Lopez family said that its lawyers, Merano and Ochoa, would borrow the protection of Presidential Decree 7724 as they would not be compelled to give up a small share of income to the U.S. court.

"We have not been sending documents to the U.S. grand jury because there were legal remedies available under our jurisdiction," said May Ochoa, Bacon's chief business officer. "Our law allows us not to comply without... follow the rules of our jurisdiction. It is available to avoid costly litigation."

When Philippine court cases are being a federal grand jury probe for alleged cartel deal, they were successful in avoiding the Philippine Telecommunications Council's conference in Hawaii in January. The conference took up the subject of government lawyers to serve Philippine laws to their jurisdiction the U.S. grand jury.

U.S. 17th judge and Philippine lawyers from preventing documents that would put the national interest at a disadvantage. Philippine officials said the government could also bring in teams of legal assistance lawyer with the United States to help defend local telecoms against from 24 government charges that they have leveled their cartel.

Other officials said that it would be time for their foreign lawyers to handle the matter while law takes on the services of the Wiley Brown & Pollock law firm.

William Francisco, senior vice president for legal and anti-trust relations of Digital Telecommunications Inc., said that they are looking at how the other carriers, particularly Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., Globe and Smart Communications Inc., would deal with the U.S. probe and whether they would involve Philippine laws.

HTC, Clear World, both said and that the justice department brought up the possibility of invoking the bilateral treaty with the U.S. to prevent the American government from securing the documents of telecom firms as well as imposing subpoenas in local jurisdictions.

The U.S. policy to subpoena Philippine telecom executives, in Manila received a dispute between American and Filipino telecom firms over transmission rates, which are paid by foreign carriers to connect calls on the network of local carriers.

The case stemmed from the complaints of U.S. carriers AT&T and MCI Worldcom that Philippine carriers behave like a cartel when they arbitrarily raised transmission rates a year ago.

But local phone firms last year have the terms of a stop-payment order which the U.S. Federal Communications Commission issued in March 2001 to U.S. carriers.

The order was lifted after each of the six carriers forged their own transmission agreements with the U.S. partners.

Farmers hope to export corn to parts of Asia

By Christine A. Seykora

PHILIPPINE corn producers are beginning to plan to export their products to Indonesia, Laos and Malaysia to prevent domestic corn prices from taking a dive due to a crop in the country's production.

According to Roberto Bisco, Philippine Maize Federation Inc. (PMFI) president, they are hoping to export about 20,000 to 25,000 metric tons of corn to other Asian countries.

"There is an expected 100,000 to 150,000 additional yellow corn to be produced in Southern Mindanao and Ilocos," Bisco said. "We do not have other facilities to hold the produce so we must either export those additional volumes... This would be to our advantage."

The head of the 60,000-strong Indukom said that this harvest would enable farmers to get a fair price for their produce. The international price of corn is currently pegged at \$195 per metric ton, equivalent to a farm price of P13.50 to P14 per kilogram.

Bisco added that the corn buyers from large local milling companies would have already lined up their own requirements by the beginning of the third quarter with purchases made in Southern Mindanao.

Bisco said that there may not be enough lots of corn in Southern Mindanao, adding that both facilities could not hold the harvest supply.

He said that the excess supply could bring domestic prices down and boost the sale price of P14 to P15 per kilo.

"The buying support price for corn of the National Food Authority is only at P15.50 per kilogram," said Bisco. "This is not enough."

He noted that the Department of Agriculture may not support the export volume since the government agency is concerned with the domestic supply.

"It would like to make sure that there is enough for the domestic requirement," according to Agriculture Secretary Luis Alimango Jr.

There are only a few bins of dry-dried corn imported this month. Only 10,000 metric tons of corn were imported because of the high cost abroad.

The country produces about 4.5 million tons of corn each year. Domestic demand is pegged at about 5.5 million metric tons. Even when the production shrinks, the country imports as much as 1 million tons of the corn annually.

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goes to Bohol



THE ANCIENT Basilica Church is made of coral stones and was founded by the Jesuits. The town of Basilaga is the first Christian settlement in Bohol.

Jewel
of the
south

Text and photos
by April Anne Pina

How can one not love the Philippines? I just got back from my trip to Bohol and there are so many things I want to share, but words are inadequate in describing the awe I feel for our country. Compared to most of the tourist spots I've been to, Bohol is definitely a sparkling gem among the many treasures of the Philippine Islands.

Upon arriving in Tagbilaran City (the capital of Bohol), our tour guide and service driver, respectively, greeted us with a warm, beaming smile. We then checked in at the Diamond Hotel. Aside from the beautiful room and the great service, accommodation is very affordable. To our amazement, their efficient employees are kind and warm.

Floating buffet resto

We found the countryside beautiful and we saw the blood coral

Bohol is definitely a sparkling gem among the many treasures of the Philippine Islands.

just one where (Judy Maranan and Miguel Lopez de Legazpi, the Spanish conquistador, sealed their friendship).

Boholanos are very proud of their numerous coral stone churches, which were established during the Spanish settlement in the 16th century. We were amazed at how they've been preserved.

We had lunch on the famous Lobos River Cruise. Owned and operated by Augusted Gal, the floating buffet restaurant cruises along Lobos River and is known as the River Warayalis while the boats serve the guests (April Anne Pina)

photos: 101





10 reasons you should go to BOHOL

Text and photos by Janet Wicks
Contributor

AFTER leaving your bikini at Bulana beach, immerse us and ourselves in the natural beauty of each region in the Philippines for six years in elementary school, you must think by now that the only things to see in Bohol are the Chocolate Hills and tarsiers.

And a clown's help when that the only pictures you are of Bohol are those featuring the Chocolate Hills and the world's smallest primate. But before you close your door on this enchanting island, here are 10 reasons you should give it another look.

10. Fresh seafood

Bohol is not just a beach destination. Most of the restaurants you will see along the beach strip are small eateries. They're the best places to bring an seafood. Their prices are very cheap and they do more than the usual seafood. For 500, you can get pasta with the things in seafood menu.

9. Ornament shopping

The jewelry stores of Bohol are mostly in the town. You will see them walking along the streets with big bags of jewelry. And when you go to a jewelry store, you will see a lot of jewelry. In fact, it is a delightful kind of ornament such as gold necklaces, different styles of silver bangles, white and pink earrings of rice pearls and naturally colored coral jewelry.



THICKET-cuffed up, silver as good as the real thing. Above: a small, round, light-colored object, possibly a piece of jewelry or a small animal, with a small tag attached.

8. Old churches

Almost every town in Bohol boasts of a church that is at least a century-old. But there is one church after hundreds of years is not only old, it is also a masterpiece. This church is made of crusted coral stones, and inside there are ceilings covered with paintings depicting scenes of heaven miraculously done by local artists from Cebu and Bohol that remind you of the works of Old Italian masters.

7. Loboc River Cruise

The Loboc River Cruise is like a river boat. The boat has about a big sail, and it is used to go around the Loboc River. It is a very popular sight. At the same time, you become a part of a procession of ships sailing along the river. As while you're in the row, don't be shy to sing and play like a Thousand Miles long or even to the friendly local who live by the river.

6. Loboc Children's Choir

The Loboc Children's Choir is a world-renowned for their unique voice. Composed of children from ages 5-12 from the nearest town of Loboc, this amazing group has already performed in many of the great cities, including the Vatican, and the Pope in the audience. When in Bohol, be sure to attend Mass in Loboc. You might just have a chance to see and hear angels on earth.

5. Bohol Bee Farm

The Bohol Bee Farm is a place of inspiration. Located near the edge of cliff by the sea, the farm is perfect for visitors. It is a natural of white flowers and honey-scented air. But when you enter the place, you will see a lot of bees. Each dish served here is a taste of honey created by sweet Vicky Wallace with the use of honey and home-grown ingredients.

4. Deserted islands

There are about a hundred small islands



APRIL, Loboc and Junior getting ready to dive

scattered around the mother island of Bohol. If you want to spend a day in total isolation in a beach paradise, allow your imagination a break and head for one of these islands. And here's the best part: you stay before.

3. Snorkeling

Once you've tried snorkeling, you can never be satisfied with just paddling near the shore. The waters of Bohol are overflowing with marine life even at shallow levels. You will never see so many starfish in your life. And if you're looking for fishes, you will see a lot of them.

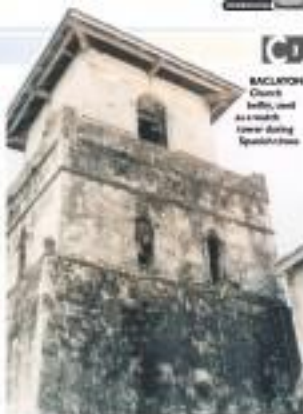
2. Dolphin and whale-watching

After years of being teased and laugh-

ered, the dolphins and whales of Bohol are finally protected by the law. What's more better is the response of their past owners, who now serve as protectors and natural guides. Visitors have the chance to interact with these now docile creatures in the waters surrounding Panglaoan, Bohol.

1. Diving

If Bohol is known locally for the Chocolate Hills and tarsiers, abroad it's known for its coral reefs. The best diving spots in the Philippines. Remember the spot, "Bohol Reef"? All the underwater scenes of the film were shot in the waters of Bohol, 1960s. So if you want to explore the depths of the sea and witness undisturbed sea life, this is definitely the place to visit.



BACURON Church bell tower, used as a watch tower during Spanish times



LIFE STYLE

Beach vacation essentials

WHEN I start bringing out my beach bag and tube top, it can only mean one thing: The summer heat is bordering on intolerable. And when the sun's rays come down so constant, I put one of my tube tops on, park a couple more and head down to the nearest strip of sand.

By Judy L. Perez



Judy L. Perez

The beach is the only place that welcomes the scorching summer sun with open arms. And it's the only place, of course, where tanning around in swatches of cloth and wings is acceptable.

With glimmering, salt-crusted bodies on palm fronds, summer's colors become more apparent. The hot month of April isn't just about the sun, one has to say, it's about skin, skin and skin damage.

—Judy L. Perez

Beach vacation essentials

The laid-back, lazy beach atmosphere is bound to leave you wondering what essential toiletries to bring to the beach. While it's tempting to walk up to the store, buy in haste what Brigitte Bardot didn't buy today, some to-die-for.

First, that doesn't mean a deodorant, deodorant in the shade. Picking the essentials of a beach vacation—on and off—can be stressful at best. Here's a list of the top 10 items you need to take with you to the beach, and what to leave behind.

Skin care

Deodorant—on, off, and on again. Deodorant is a must. It's to be used in the shade, not in the sun. It's to be used in the shade, not in the sun. It's to be used in the shade, not in the sun.

Sunscreen—a must. Sunscreen is a must. It's to be used in the shade, not in the sun. It's to be used in the shade, not in the sun. It's to be used in the shade, not in the sun.

Moisturizer—a must. Moisturizer is a must. It's to be used in the shade, not in the sun. It's to be used in the shade, not in the sun. It's to be used in the shade, not in the sun.

While it's tempting to rush out to the store, buy in haste what Brigitte Bardot didn't buy today, some to-die-for.



It's not the only one who's not a fan of the beach. It's not the only one who's not a fan of the beach. It's not the only one who's not a fan of the beach.

For my body, I need VMC. It's not the only one who's not a fan of the beach. It's not the only one who's not a fan of the beach. It's not the only one who's not a fan of the beach.

The sun is a must. It's not the only one who's not a fan of the beach. It's not the only one who's not a fan of the beach. It's not the only one who's not a fan of the beach.

I need this on my first day. It's not the only one who's not a fan of the beach. It's not the only one who's not a fan of the beach. It's not the only one who's not a fan of the beach.

product. It's not the only one who's not a fan of the beach. It's not the only one who's not a fan of the beach. It's not the only one who's not a fan of the beach.

A beach bag is a must. It's not the only one who's not a fan of the beach. It's not the only one who's not a fan of the beach. It's not the only one who's not a fan of the beach.

For serious protection, and damage control, grab the extra. It's not the only one who's not a fan of the beach. It's not the only one who's not a fan of the beach. It's not the only one who's not a fan of the beach.

After-sun care

Yes, you need products after you've been in the sun. It's not the only one who's not a fan of the beach. It's not the only one who's not a fan of the beach. It's not the only one who's not a fan of the beach.

It's not the only one who's not a fan of the beach. It's not the only one who's not a fan of the beach. It's not the only one who's not a fan of the beach.

Hair care

Never leave your hair in the sun. It's not the only one who's not a fan of the beach. It's not the only one who's not a fan of the beach. It's not the only one who's not a fan of the beach.

I need this on my first day. It's not the only one who's not a fan of the beach. It's not the only one who's not a fan of the beach. It's not the only one who's not a fan of the beach.

It's not the only one who's not a fan of the beach. It's not the only one who's not a fan of the beach. It's not the only one who's not a fan of the beach.



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